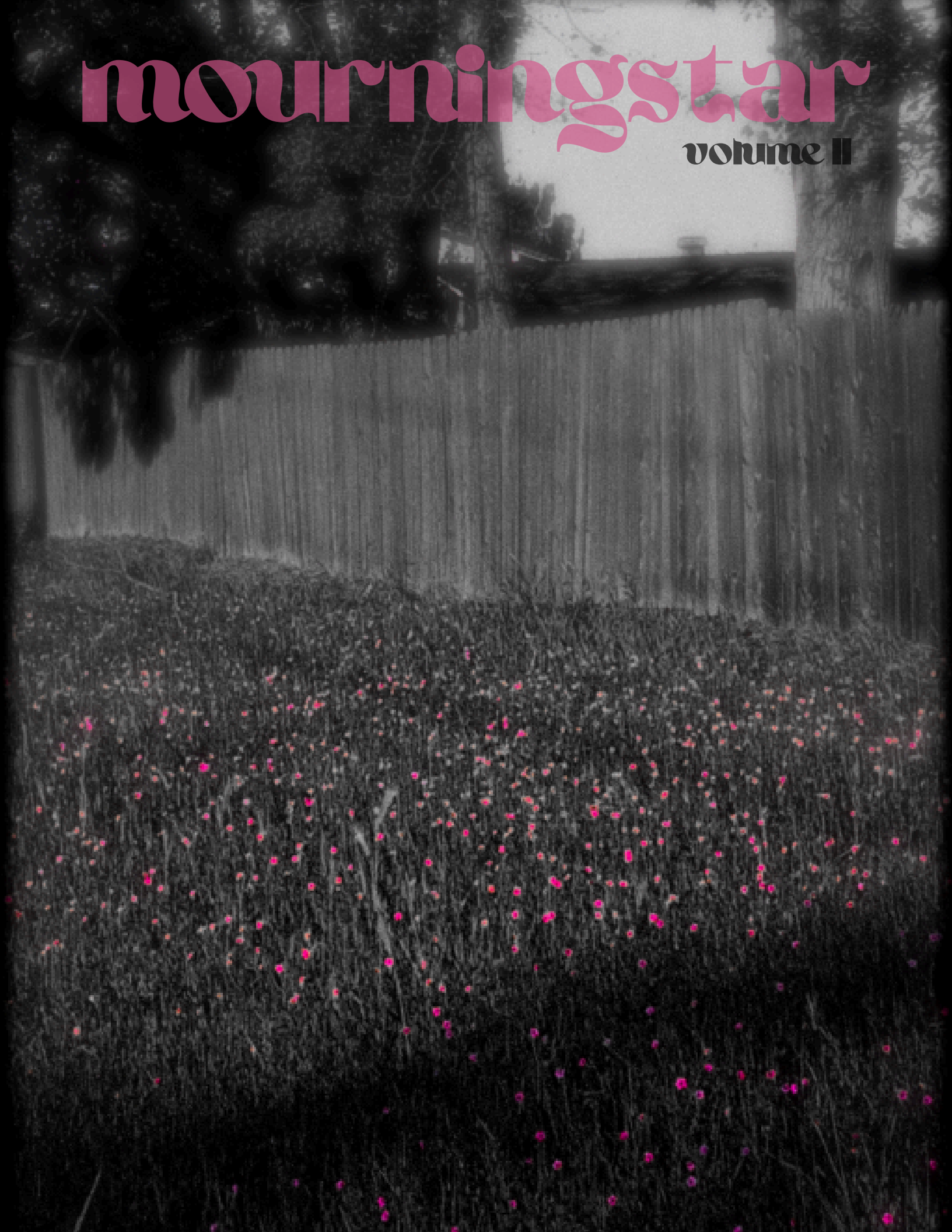
mourningstar
volume II

staff

the mourningstar bimonthly is headed, written, and edited by oak reona. many of our articles and depictions stem from members of the community. within our pages, we try to tuck as much of ourselves and our passion as we can, holding onto the belief that the essence of creativity necessitates itself.

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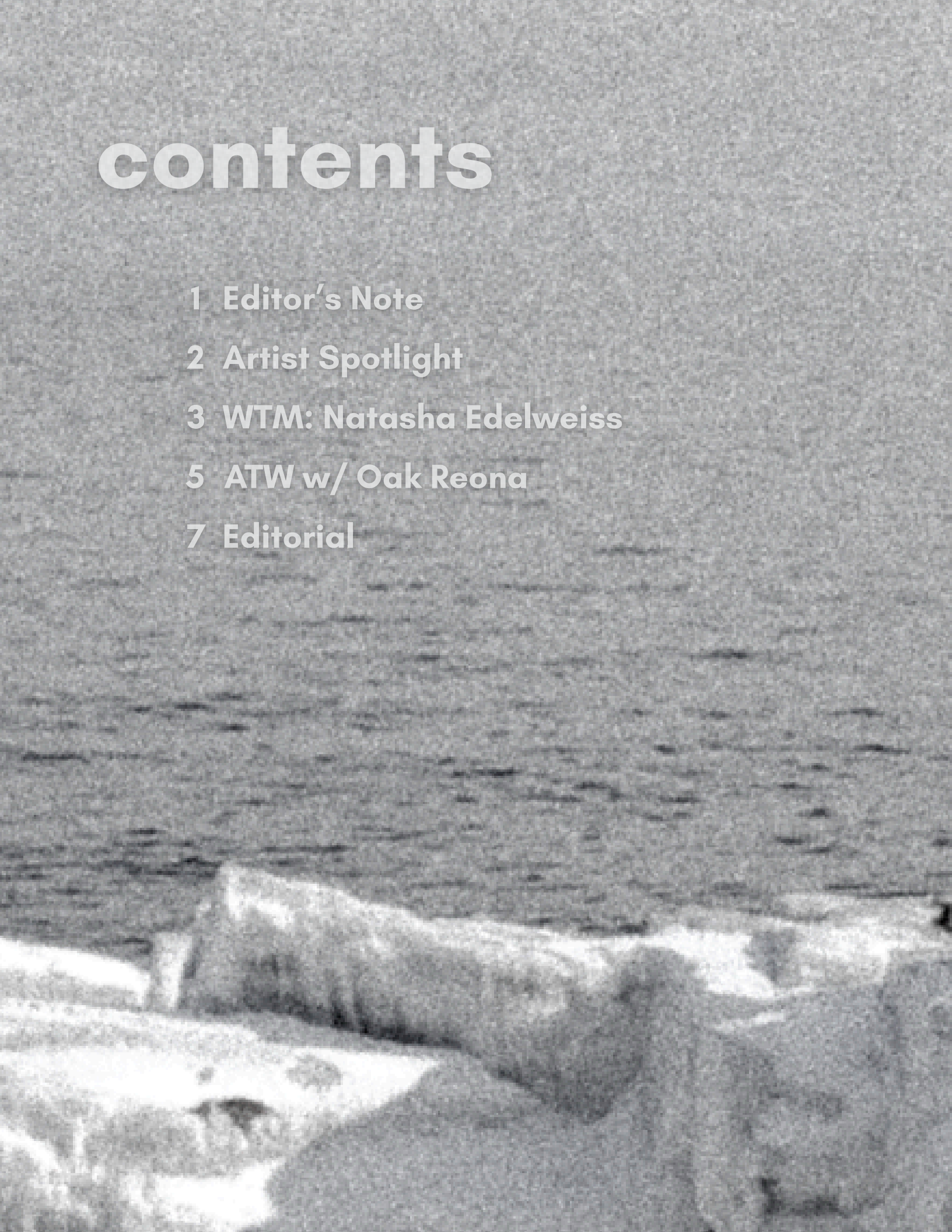


editor's note.

our depictions and statements derive from a community of inspired and oppressed individuals. in an age when silence equals compliance, public forum and creative expression are vital. our, and your, voices are the ones that will inspire the generations beyond us to harbor a more rational and more just system than we have allowed. as often said, history forgotten is soon history repeated. the only lessons that have ever been learned from are first taught. the only stories that have inspired better men are first told, and held to light. never hinder your own voice when it will oft be hindered for you.

artist spotlight

"On the Beach of Annihilation"
from Medusa's Den

within the mind of Natasha Edelweiss

int. by oak reona

Q: When did you come under care of The Cave?

A: 2012, housing market crash of 08 was coming to an end. I found the cave as a foreclosure. Figured it could be the best venue and place to live ever. I went in on it with my folks, and since, my dad and brother died. We've had so many shows there, or if the show was in town, a jam session in the cave afterwards.

When I met my ex Dexter, I was working on opening a venue in town to lessen the traffic in my yard out at the cave, and make it more accessible to the public, since my house shows were word of mouth mostly. The in town the venue was then called the Cave Collective, which was on 7th street and then where Aby's is today. That's a whole different story...

I recently left the cave, to futures unknown, in my mom's hands. Still depressed and mourning the loss honestly even though it's still there.

Q: What first got you interested in showrunning?

My first show was the Reddmen at Minneluzahan when I was like 15, and from then on out I was at every "punk" show I could find. I'm not sure who the first artist I booked was, but probably some folk acoustic punk stuff, and once the word got out, the bands just kept coming. I did a house show for a friend and had to do it when my ex was out of town because he didn't want a show there. Also I ended up being involved with a collective of artists downtown at Staging Grounds, where West Dakota Improve is today. That was my first office venue, and where I sold vintage clothes out of to make an income as an early 20 something going to nursing school with two toddlers and a then failing marriage.

Q: Is there a specific instance that made you really lean into creating?

A: Artistically and musically driven all my life, I took singing and piano lessons when I was in elementary school. My mom is a huge music head so always had concerts she was taking me to. Maybe it's just because I was a mom before I could even go to a bar, but I want there to always be all ages shows. It's so isolating when you can't, and now with teens of my own it's like what else is there to do? We need music to make friends, and be a part of something.

Q: Do you have any favorite shows you've put on?

A: My goal is to one day make a timeline of all the shows I've put on. Shit, when we were open downtown, I did all the booking and had like 3+ shows a week. The shows at the OG cave (home) are the best though. And Psych Fests.

Q: Do you have any major inspirations, or idols?

A: My friend Amethyst was my first go-to when it came to booking, as she used to do all the shows when I was in high school. Maria Cree up in North Dakota runs a killer scene. I love 7th Circle down in Denver. My bandmates keep me going these days, playing shows and having fun doing it.

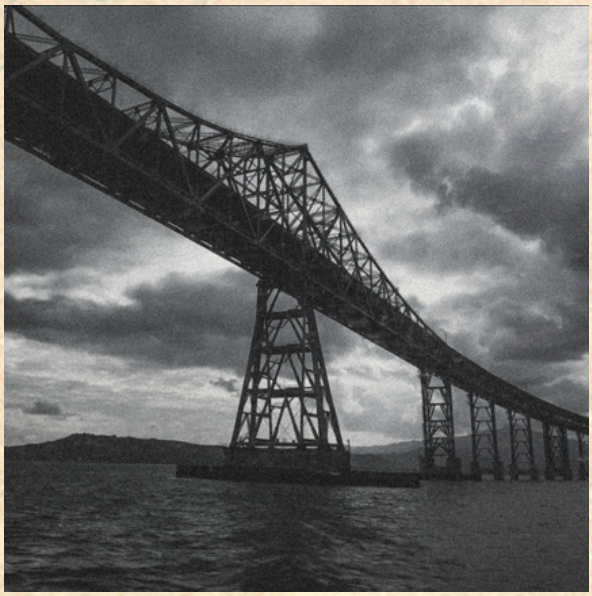
Q: What's the future of The Cave look like?

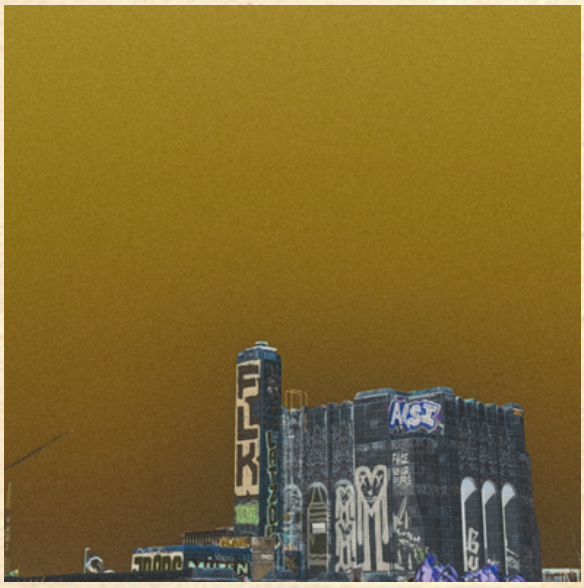
A: I wish I knew. I might have a show there some day again, but it's really up to whoever ends up living there and my mom. Hopefully this political climate fucking implodes and we can start building something better, maybe I'll go back someday. I'm always looking for new places to have shows, even though I'm "retired" from booking, it's part of me and I can't help but dream.

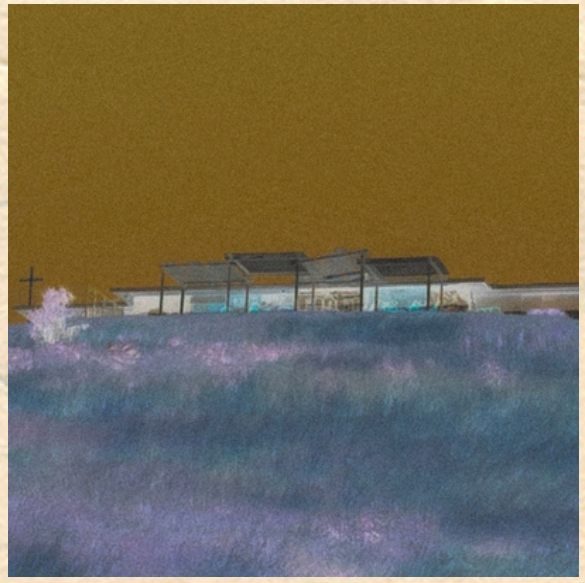
around the way.

photos by oak reona

In many cases, man made contraptions hinder and obfuscate the nature it inhabits. This is a showcase of the few cases in which I find our hubris highlights the beauty of what is, or could have been







editorial

by oak reona.

There is one, and only one, social responsibility of a business - to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase profits." - Milton Friedman. Corporations in today's age hold little to no ethical responsibility to its consumers, nor the earth they infest. In fact, it doesn't take a microscope to see that the only responsibility a corporation holds itself to, is to its shareholders.

Do you remember the Pepsi v Coke war? It seemed you couldn't scroll through the internet in the early 2000s, nor watch TV in the 80s or 90s without seeing an ad comparing the two. And yet, in reality, both Pepsi Co and Coca Cola have the same majority stockholders. Let's talk numbers. According to MarketScreener.com, The top 3 shareholders of each respective company are as follows: For Pepsi, the Vanguard Group holds 6.3% of total stock available, even internally. Blackrock, 6.3%, and State Street Holdings, 4.3%. And Coca Cola? 5.98% Blackrock, 5.5% Vanguard, and 3.9% State Street. True competition doesn't exist internally. And when you take this into account, it's not hard to see why Pepsi wouldn't be so hard pressed to put their biggest "competitor" on blast.

Now, if they were just creating false competition for profit, I don't think we would be talking about them today. And no, it's not even because Vanguard is the majority stockholder of Blackrock, or that State Street is its 4th biggest shareholder next to both Vanguard and Blackrock. Hell, even if we forgot the fact that these "3" groups held over 40% of America's GDP in 2025 (PublicNow.com, 2026) , there's one gnarly fact that ties all the minor atrocities together.

Lockheed Martin has been a publicly traded company since 1995. Today, in June, 2026, State Street Holdings controls a whopping 14.12% of their stock. Blackrock and Vanguard? 6.56% and 6.1%, respectively. (MS 2026) Nearly a quarter of the biggest contractor to the US Military, is owned by the exact same wealthy elites that stage culture wars for breakfast. What do you think Friedman would say about that? The "Big 3" likely wouldn't be sitting so pretty if there wasn't such a need for F-35 fighter jets.

The only natural conclusion we arrive at, is that to Larry Fink and his buddies, a buck is worth more than your life. War is an economy, and if they have to sacrifice the lower class again and again to profit, they'll do it with a smile on their faces. And that isn't something that We the People should ever forget.

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